

Section by Section Analysis of H.R. 5136 National Integrated Drought Information System Act

Section 1. Short Title.

National Integrated Drought Information System Act of 2006.

Section 2. Definitions.

Defines two terms: 1) “drought” means a deficiency in precipitation that leads to a deficiency in surface or subsurface water supplies and that causes (or may cause) substantial economic or social impacts or physical damage or injury to people, property, or the environment; 2) “Under Secretary” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

Section 3. NIDIS Program.

Directs the Under Secretary to establish the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) through the National Weather Service and other appropriate programs in NOAA.

Specifies that the system shall provide an effective drought early warning system and shall coordinate and integrate Federal research in support of the system. Specifies that NIDIS: be a comprehensive system that collects and integrates information on drought for useable, reliable, and timely drought assessments and forecasts; communicate forecasts, conditions and impacts to the public and private sectors, and decisionmakers at all levels of government in order to aid timely, informed decisions leading to reduced impacts and costs; include timely and real-time information and products reflecting local, regional, and State differences in drought conditions.

Directs the Under Secretary to consult with relevant Federal, regional, State, tribal and local agencies, institutions, and the private sector in the development of NIDIS. Requires each Federal agency to cooperate with the Under Secretary as appropriate in carrying out the Act.

Section 4. Authorization of Appropriations.

Authorizes \$12 million for FY07, \$14 million for FY08, \$16 million for each of FY09 and FY10, and \$18 million for each of FY11 and FY12.